

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
DECEMBER 2001**

OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

Commission Office

The following items were discussed at the December 13, 2001 meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission:

- An update was provided on the MCFRS FY03 operating budget preparation.
- The plan to meet the FY02 savings plan of \$435,000 was outlined: \$175,000 in apparatus, \$170,000 in salary lapse from vacant information technology positions, and \$90,000 in administrative support positions.
- A report regarding FY01 Senator Amoss Fund expenditures was provided
- A request to reallocate Senator Amoss funds for the Upper Montgomery County VFD was approved.
- The interim policy for FRC Appeals Hearing was extended.
- The Aerial Unit Study was briefly discussed, and action on this matter was deferred to allow some issues to be clarified.
- The temporary *Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct* executive regulation was approved.
- The existing *Incident Command System* executive regulation was approved to be repealed. The interim *Incident Command System* policy was also approved and will become effective when the existing ICS regulation is repealed by the County Council.
- A request from the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad to establish ALS chase car service in Friendship Heights was approved with several conditions.
- A proposal to modify the response of ALS units to incident when units are on the scene on an incident and need BLS transport was approved for 90 days.
- A proposal from DFRS to reorganize the MCFRS specialty teams was presented. The Commission approved the designation of Fire Station 28 as a satellite hazmat station. The FRC will take action on the other features of the proposed reorganization at the January 2002 FRC meeting.
- A proposal to establish tanker service at Fire Station 31 was approved, which is in accordance with the Water Supply Study Implementation Work Group report.

Research and Planning

Emergency Management

Grants - Emergency Management staff were able to successfully compete for last minute grants for hazardous materials planning on December 26th when other counties had to turn back their monies which they were not able to spend before the end of the grant period. The county was able to expand its existing grant of \$8029, and received an additional \$7300 for expenses incurred before September 30, 2001. The additional monies were used for projects which included attendance at the EPA haz-mat conference in Baltimore, and data entry into the Hazlink database to expand chemical records for regulated businesses in high risk areas.

Community Outreach – County Executive Douglas Duncan, Gordon Aoyagi, Fire Administrator, Health Officer Carol Garvey, and Kathleen Henning have been presenters at various Community Forums to discuss the County's response and capabilities to handle terrorist events.

Dec. 5th we coordinated with the Town of Takoma Park and the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Dept. Dec. 7th we presented to seniors on Pearl Harbor Day at the Holiday Park Senior Center. January 5th the Rockville program was taped by British TV. Additional forums are scheduled for Leisure World (Jan. 10) , and the other government service centers (Jan 5, Jan 22, Feb. 5, Feb. 21, Feb. 26th) Specific information is available through our office or the County website. Gordon Aoyagi and Kathee Henning filmed a program on CityLine for the City of Rockville cable TV.

Classes – The next Family and Individual Preparedness class is scheduled for February 11th. Ginny Hogan, American Red Cross Disaster Services Director, is scheduled to co-teach the program. OEM staff are also working with MCFRS to develop a Spanish language version of this class. Planning is underway for the Feb. 25th “Communications in Disaster” course which will emphasize new technology improvements in the last year. OEM staff are working on joint federal/state/county “Mass Fatality” class for April.

GEMAC/SERC – Kathleen Henning attended the Executive Committee of the Governor’s Emergency Management Advisory Council/State Emergency Response Commission to discuss state reorganization. Among issues discussed are changes to policies which allow access to business information about chemical storage. New security measures are being recommended to reflect national security concerns.

Storm-Ready Community – Montgomery County will be applying for certification as a Storm Ready community, a new national program started this past year. We held our Skywarn class last June, but need to distribute NOAA radios to the schools to be in compliance. All the Counties will be participating in a federal grant that will provide NOAA alert radios to each of the public, and each of the large private schools in January. MCPS is reviewing the lists and confirming the listing of eligible schools.

Volunteer Appreciation – Emergency Management hosted a Volunteer Appreciation event on December 20th as part of the annual orientation program. Awards and certificates from the County Executive and the Fire Administrator were presented to Mid-Atlantic DOGS volunteers Al Rossi, Jane Servais, John Morgan, Laura Totis, and Red Cross Ginny Hogan for their efforts at the Pentagon.

Annexes – The Emergency Management Group is conducting it’s annual review of annexes and comments are due back by March 2. Annexes under review for 2002 are the Basic Plan, B-Evacuation/Shelter, C-Search and Rescue, G-Transportation, H-Logistics, J-Health and Human Services, M-Public Information, T-Mutual Aid/Municipalities; U-Utilities, V-Volunteers, X-Animal Control, AA-Hazardous Materials, and CC-Terrorism(for bioterrorism updates.)

Municipal Briefing – Gordon briefed the municipalities at luncheon hosted by Bruce Romer at the Kentlands. I attended to respond to questions about class opportunities. Several town managers requested community forums or classes to meet their individual needs. Requests for high rise evacuation planning is being coordinated with Captain Anne Harrison.

Utilities – Meeting held with representatives of the utilities and transportation systems Dec. 20th. Issues of notification, security, and mutual training with first responders were covered.

Haz-Mat – Letters went out to all fee-exempt facilities with filing due dates of February 1st, and SARA facilities with March 1st due dates. A second initiative is to identify non-complying High and General facilities who are late for their August and September renewals. The haz-mat regulation program has brought in \$255,000 of our expected \$350,000 in revenue already for the fiscal year. Dec 10-13th OEM staff attended the national EPA/LEPC conference in Baltimore. Staff are preparing minutes and committee reports for the January LEPC meeting.

MEMA – K. Talbott, B. Nemchin, M. Krumlauf, and K. Henning attended the annual Maryland Emergency Management Agency and Association joint meeting December 6th in Reisterstown.

Hurricanes – K. Henning is one of six individuals selected from Maryland to attend a Community Hurricane Preparedness workshop at the National Hurricane Center in Miami in February. Participants must prepare flood evacuation strategies in advance and bring them to the program. Ms. Henning will stress coordination with our Traffic Management Center.

Community Education Safety Section

Corporate Development Services

Automation Section

Fleet and Facilities Section

Facilities-

- Continued the FY 03 operating budget process including enhanced facility improvement programs.
- Continued to work with the Takoma Park community to resolve issues relating to the replacement of FS #2.

Fleet-

- Continued to work with the vendor to outfit the new Ford Expeditions to be assigned as District Chief vehicles in the Bureau of Operations. The first of the vehicles is scheduled for delivery in mid-January 2002.
- Continued the outfitting of vehicles for Investigations, Collapse Rescue Team, and the Honor Guard.
- The Apparatus Specifications Committee is finalizing a specification for a midship mount aerial tower to replace AT-20. It is expected that the request for proposals will be advertised in February 2002.

Grants Management Section

DERS Property Section

- Processed 255 storeroom transactions.
- Coordinated dress uniform delivery/fitting session at the PSTA for Recruit Class #20 personnel.
- Coordinated field-PPE fitting session at the Property Section for Recruit Class #20 personnel.
- Worked with the Bureau of Program Support to prepare for the January 19th CPAT process for Recruit Class #21.
- Evaluated bids submitted under a formal procurement solicitation process for uniform laundering and dry cleaning services. Met with apparent low bidder and inspected processing plant and equipment. Submitted recommendation to Office of Procurement Director regarding contract award.
- Prepared Division requirements for formal procurement solicitation for uniform shoe repair services and submitted to Office of Procurement.
- Created new master paging clone for use by Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team.
- Met with representative from MCPD, DIST and Arch Wireless regarding paging issues, and specific problems relating to MCPD's ERT.
- Continued work with DERS Safety Team and Globe Firefighters Suits on a TPP study.

DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Bureau of Operations

Administration

Safety

Specialty Teams

Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue;

Swiftwater Rescue Team

Bureau of Program Support Services

Administration

Communications

ECC facts for December:

911 Calls Received: 9,900
911 Overflow Received: 752
Administrative Calls (in/out): 21,250

Year-Ending-Facts 01

911 Calls Received: 117,495
911 Overflow Received: 8,348
Administrative Calls (in/out): 258,078

Training

Recruit Class #20 members completed Emergency Medical Technician-Basic, Safety and Survival, Street Survival, Safety In The Neighborhood, Fire Prevention, Chem-Bio, Quality Assurance, EMBRS Program, Metro Tour and began Emergency Vehicle Operator's Course (EVOC). Graduation is scheduled for January 11, 2002.

Exams completed for Emergency Vehicle Driver Testing in December are:

Written	6
Practical	8

In-Service Training Program "Rapid Intervention Company Training" ended with a total of 51 DFRS and 13 LFRD students completing the training.

Nighttime EMT-Paramedic Class #23 continues with 32 students. The 22 students in daytime EMT-Paramedic Class #24 completed Anatomy and Physiology and began their paramedic training class.

One volunteer EMT-CRT (Cardiac Rescue Technician) was awarded charge status in December.

Bureau of Life Safety Services

Administration

Issued the first of a series of Domestic Preparedness videos titled "Response to Terrorism: Training and Guidance. The video focused on the following topics: Chemical Accessory Kit, Inhalation Anthrax, SCBA and Turnout Gear, Emergency Escape Mask, Advantage 1000 Chemical Mask, and the Quick Reference Guides.

Fire Code Enforcement

Two inspectors attended a Fire Protection Systems and Structures at the National Fire Academy. One employee also attended a Life Safety class.

Fire and Explosive Investigation

In December, Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 16 accidental fires and 12 criminal fire related incidents. The Bomb Squad responded to a total of 42 explosive / suspicious package / letter, threat incidents. The total estimated dollar loss for accidental fires was \$ 1,854,500 and \$ 81,550 for criminal fire related incidents.

The county suffered one fire fatality during this month. An adult male set fire to himself and his vehicle on Colesville Road. This act has been determined to be a suicide.

Investigators encountered and assisted MCP with several clandestine drug labs located in the upper county area.

DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

- Represented the LFRDs at the award ceremony for 9-11-01 responses; from the Montgomery County Civic Federation
- Met with Nancy Dacek and Fred Welsh in the COB regarding both volunteer and general fire and rescue issues – past , present and future
- Attended additional budget meetings including those for the DVFRS, KVFD, BVFD
- Attended the State of the County speech by the CE
- Attended the memorial service for Past President Fones' wife
- Met with the Safety group regarding loss control
- Met, at a breakfast meeting, with the CE, Fire Administrator, Chairman, Fire Board and the LFRD Chiefs regarding issues of common concern
- Attended the Public Safety Committee hearing regarding KVFD staffing
- Met with President Chornock, Chief Dmuchowski, Chief Strock and F. Welsh regarding Sta. 29 issues
- Went to Frederick Co. for the MD Metro Chiefs meeting
- Presented a unit citation, with Chief Strock, at Sta. 40
- Attended the Quarterly Leadership Forum meeting and luncheon
- Met at B-CC for Sens. McCluskey and Sarbanes recognition of personnel responses on 9-11-01
- Met with President Twigg, Chief Strock, Chief Richards, Dist. Chief Bowers and the Laytonsville Board of Directors regarding Sta. 17 issues
- Met with Chief Rhodes and the SSVFD Chief Officers, Chief Strock, Dep. Chief Allwang and Dist. Chief Mullins regarding Sta. 4 & 40 issues
- Attended another meeting concerning loss control

- Met with President Surrette, Chief Long and Randy Hilton and Sherri Graves from OHR regarding personnel issues
- Met with Chief Strock and Dist. Chief Bowers regarding the upcoming valor awards ceremony
- Attended the Human Relations, Safety and Training Committee, Fire Board, Fire and Rescue Commission and Operations Committee meetings
- Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various LFRDs, etc.

Planning Manager

1. Attended the Public Safety Committee meeting at the COB on 12-10-01.
 2. Participated in LFRD budget meetings on 12-10-01.
 3. Represented the Volunteer Division at the annual Congressional Fire Service Institute day at MFRI on 12-12-01.
 4. Attended Montgomery County new employee Sexual Harassment training and the FRC Meeting on 12-13-01.
 5. Met with President Day and Kevin Sanzenbacher at Co.9 on 12-14-01.
 6. Attended the Quarterly Leadership Meeting and the 9-11 Federal Reimbursement press briefing at BCCRS on 12-17-01.
 7. Attended the GWGVFD Membership meeting at old station 8 on 12-19-01.
 8. Attended the MCVFRA meeting on 12-20-01.
 9. Met with Chief 3 regarding the development of a volunteer business plan on 12-21-01.
 10. Visited Stations 12, 31, and 14 on 12-27-01.
 11. Attended the live burn training in Co.3's first due on 12-28-01.
 12. Attended the Fire Board meeting, reported on the Recruitment and universal application initiative on 1/2/02.
 13. Developed the initial working draft of a 5-year business plan for the Volunteer Division.
 14. Attended the CFRCOA monthly meeting and presented a report on the Volunteer Division business plan on 1/3/02.
 15. Met with Chief Dwyer, Rich Riffe, Greenridge Associates regarding the potential use of their services for a proposed meeting with an LFRD on 1/7/02.
 16. Attended the COG Mutual Aid COPDI class at PSTA on 1/8/02.
 17. Participated in the orientation of a new College Live-in at KVFD Station 21 on 1/8/02 with Ms. Theresa Hale, DVFRS, Chief 5 and Mike Kelley, KVFD.
 18. Attended the Hillandale January Membership meeting on 1/9/02.
 19. Attended the January FRC meeting on 1/10/02.
 20. Attended the CJPVFD January Membership meeting on 1/14/02.
 21. Researched the non-emergency chain of command.
 22. Attended the CE press briefing on CIP at FS 31 on 1/15/02.
 23. Met with Chiefs Dwyer and Strock regarding EMBRS and incomplete PIAs on 1/16/02.
 24. Met with Kevin Sanzenbacher, President Hartung, Chiefs Gaegler and Knott, District Chief Ridgely, and Lieutenant Gilbert on implementing a station inspection program at FS 12 on 1/16/02.
 25. Attended MCFRS Mediation Team training on 1/17/02.
 26. Attended the January MCVFRA meeting on 1/17/02.
- Continuing to schedule and meet with LFRD Chiefs and Presidents and attend LFRD